

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 2, and 10 over Tulaczko.

In the pedal reaction force device of claim 1, among other things, a spring member is a coil spring disposed substantially concentrically radially outward of a damper device to surround the damper device, and is compressed and tensioned integral with the damper device in accordance with a pedaling operation of an operating pedal. Applicant has amended claim 1 to make more clear this aspect of the claimed invention.

Tulaczko does not disclose at least a coil spring substantially concentrically disposed radially outward of a damper device. Instead, Tulaczko discloses a separately arranged damper device and spring member. At least for this reason, Tulaczko fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, and 10 under § 102(e).

Applicant also respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 10 by Fabrice. Claim 1 recites, among other things, a damper device, including a fluid sealed in the damper device mechanically compressed or tensioned in accordance with the pedaling operation of the operating pedal. Fabrice does not disclose at least a fluid sealed in a damper device mechanically compressed or tensioned in accordance with a pedaling operation of pedal, and hence Fabrice does not anticipate these claims under § 102(b).

The Office Action cites paragraph [0036] of Fabrice as disclosing this feature. Applicant traverses this characterization. Paragraph [0036] of Fabrice discloses application of an assisting device to hydraulic levers for control of mechanical components by cable, connecting rod, hydraulic levers or the like, not a fluid sealed in a

damper device mechanically compressed or tensioned in accordance with a pedaling operation of a pedal. The Office Action further states that elements 16 and 20 apply reaction force based on a circulating resistance of the fluid. That statement also is incorrect. Element 16 is a "guide block," (paragraph [0016], line 2), and it appears that elements 16 and 20 support the respective ends of a spring 12. Fabrice does not disclose at least that elements 16 and 20 mechanically compress or tension a fluid sealed in a damper device, and they do not appear to be capable of performing this function. Fabrice, therefore, fails to disclose the damper device as set forth in claim 1 of the invention, and at least for this reason fails to anticipate claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 10 under § 102(b).

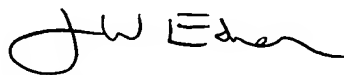
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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